Evasion of excise duty by TATA Group

2128. SHRI ASH3K NATH VERMA: Will th$_e$ Minister of FINANCE b$_e$ pleased to state:.

(a) whether it is I iact that officials of the Bihar Gpvernnr nt have detected excise duty evasion to ;he tune of Rs. 65,000 by a firm of Tat$_a$ Group of Companies;

(b) if so, what a e the details thereto; and

(c) whether any $_c$iher firms in Jamshed-pu$_r$ were also fou: d in evading excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): a) to (c) The matter 'does not relate to c^'a-ion oi Central Excise duty. It is how ever learnt that Bihar State excise authorises have seized meth-yleted Spirit in Jily, 1987 for alleged evasion of Excise' duty.

Passing on the ilesigns of arms to foreigners

2129. SHRI J. *V.* GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFEN< E b$_e$ pleased to state:

(a) whether it iv a fact that some offi cers of the Gun anc Shell Factory at Cossipore, $_a$ northern si burb of Calcutta, have been found indulgi lg =ii passing on the designs of arms and armament manufactur ed at the factory to \ foreigner as reported in Th$_e$ Hindustan Time- dated the i6th July, 1987;

(b) if so, what *re the details in this regard and what ire the particulars of persons involved in this: an'd

(c) what action 'Ms been take$_n$ against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT O ′ DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES in the MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No. ir.

(b) At the request of an Indian Firm the Officer-in Chai ge and 2 other officers **of** Gun and Shell Factory had a meeting with a foreign representative of a UK firm and three representatives cf th$_e$ Indian firm at the Inspection Bungalow of the factory on 12-6-1987. On the basis of certain information the officials oi CBI confronted th$_e$ foreign representative of UK firm and recovered two drawings from his brief-caso One of them was identified by an officer of Ordnance Factory Board as not relating to any defence item produced in the Ordnance Factories. Th$_e$ other drawing was an unclassified one for seamless tubes- No re' port ha$_s$ been received from the CBI so far**.**

(c) Does not arise.

स्वीडिश आडिट ब्यूरो की रिपोर्ट

2130. **श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी** : क्या **रक्षा** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने स्वीडन की सरकार से आडिट ब्यूरो की रिपोर्ट भेजने का अनुरोध किया है जो बोफोर्स तोपों की बिक्री के बारे में है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह अनुरोध कब किया गया था और इस संबंध में अब तक प्राप्त परिणामों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में रक्षा उत्पादन और पूर्ति विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शिवराज पाटिल) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां । बोफोर्स ठेके के संबंध में स्वीडिश नेशनल आडिट ब्यूरो द्वारा लेखा परीक्षा, भारत सरकार के अनुरोध पर की गई थी । स्वीडिश नेशनल आडिट ब्यूरो की रिपोर्ट 4 जून, 1987 को नई दिल्ली स्थित स्वीडिश दूतावास के जरिए प्राप्त हुई थी । स्वीडिश सरकार ने रिपोर्ट के कुछ निर्णायक अंश रोक लिए थे । जैसे ही रिपोर्ट प्राप्त हुई उसे 4 जून, 1987 को समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित कर दिया गया था ।

Central excise tariff

2131. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that item no.

23 of Central Excise Tariff is now changed to item number 25.02.20, if so, what is the difference between erstwhile item 22(1) of the Central Excise Tariff and presently item 25.02.20 of Central Excise Tariff;

(b) whether term 'Ordinary Portland Cement' used in above entry represents 'Ordinary Portland Cement' a$_{g}$ described in 1S-269/76 $_{or}$ it represents any ordinary variety of cement;

(c) whether it is sufficient for clasiifying as 'Ordinary Portland Cement' for the purpose of Central Excise for a product, to be in conformity with IS-269|67; and

(d) whether any other ordinary variety of cement is also eligible for classification as "Ordinary Portland Cement" under Central Excise Tariff even if it is not in conformity with IS-269|76?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Sub-item (1) of tariff item 23 of the erstwhile Central Excise Tariff, effective during the period prior to 282.86, exactly corresponds to th$_{e}$ sub-heading No. 2502.20 of the new Central Excise Tariff, effective from 28.2.1986.

(b) to (d) IS-269|76 is not a part Of either old Central Excise Tariff or new Central Excise Tariff. Therefore, classification of Ordinary Portland Cement' is not dependent on IS-269|76. The dtasslfication of the product is decided keeping in view its acceptance and understanding in trade parlance.

Death of Commander Navin Chopra

2132. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) what were the circumstances under which Commander Navin Chopra of the Indian Navy died oa April 18, 1987; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Commander Chopra was to have been incharge of Shishumar, the submarine acquired from West Germany?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATTL): (a) Commander Navin Chopra was found dead of bullet injuries in hi$_{s}$ cabin in the Western Navat Command Officers' Mes$_{8}$ on April 18, 1987. The results of the Board of Inquiry constituted by the Navy and investigations of the Bombay Police are awaited.

(b) Commander N. Chopra was trained on SSK Class of Submarines and, in due course, would have been eligible for being posted as Commanding Officer of this class of Submarines.

Findings of Swedish National Audit Bureau

2133. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) what are the findings of the Swedish National Audit Bureau with regard to the sale of 155 mm. field guns by Bofors to India; and

(b) what is the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAI PATIL): (a) The Report of the Swedish National Audit Bureau, as received by the Government of India, with regard to the sale of 155mm field guns by Bofors, was published in **the** Press on the 5th June, 1987. The observations of the National Audit Bureau, in summary, are:

"— that an agreement exists between AB Bofors and (excised) concerning the settlement of commission subsequently to the FH 77 deal and

"—that considerable amounts have been paid subsequently to, among others, AB Bofors' previous agent ***in*** India*